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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Turkey

SUBJECT Status of Turkish Black Sea Fishing Fleet

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1. The catching of fish in Turkey is in a transition stage between the primitive and the modern. Fishing vessels are too small and too under-powered for fishing far from their base, or in stormy weather. This prevents a following of the schools and makes the fishery more or less seasonal in each locality. Most of the fishing is carried on by rowboats. There appears to be a progressive reduction in the fishing potential because twine is scarce; it takes a long time to knit a net by hand, and gear replacement is lacking. This is also partly due to earnings being insufficient to provide amortization of gear.
2. The Black Sea is the most productive, especially of pelagic fish and is the area that holds the greatest promise of a large bulk of raw material. Because the zone below about 200 meters contains hydrogen sulphide and is practically devoid of oxygen, there can be no deep-water fisheries here. The principal species are the anchovy, the horse mackerel, the dolphin (mammal), the turbot and the bonito. The coast has sandy beaches with few sheltered harbors and winter storms are severe.

DESCRIPTION OF PRESENT FISHING GEAR

3. There are four chief types of gear used, the circling or ring net, the beach seine, the trammel net and the set line. The ring nets vary in size of mesh and length according to their purpose. The largest sizes require 35 to 40 fishermen, two rowboats and three to four boats for fishing. The smaller ring nets require about 20 to 25 men, and one or two motor boats.
4. The ring nets are from just over 100 to about 170 fathoms in length, and from about 16 to 40 fathoms in depth. For anchovies the nets use three sizes of mesh, varying from about 1 1/2 inches stretched measure in the wings to 1/2 inch in the bunt. Larger mesh is used in bonito nets. They are the principal gear for taking anchovies, horse mackerel, bonito and sea herring.
5. Beach seines are used chiefly for catching surmullet, but they are also instrumental in taking smaller amounts of horse mackerel, anchovies and herring. They vary in length from about 80 to 150 fathoms.

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6. Trawl nets, each about 60 fathoms long, are used for turbot, saurmullet, and mullet. Each boat has three sets of nets so that one set of nets is ashore drying, one set is aboard the boat as it leaves for the fishing grounds, and the third set is in the water awaiting hauling. Thus each set of nets is fished every third day.
7. Each set line consists of 300 to 500 hooks each on a short gaffion attached to a ground line. Set lines are used for turbot.
8. The vessels consist of rowboats and small motor boats (except for one otter trawler of 30 gross tons). All of these vessels have high bows and sterns so that they can be launched through the surf and landed the same way with their load of fish. The rowboats vary in length from 5 1/2 to seven meters and the motor boats from six to 14 meters.

PORT FACILITIES

9. The greatest handicap of the present fishery is the lack of adequate fishing ports. Larger vessels, capable of handling modern gear for catching fish in quantity cannot be hauled onto the beach but require sheltered harbors for unloading. Adequate shelter is now found only at Sinop, Porsambe and Trabzon.
10. Trabzon harbor is formed by breakwaters. There is a basin for large vessels and a smaller basin well located for fishing vessels. The smaller basin does not have at present, adequate depth close to the shore but the harbor construction engineer, Mr. Zeki ~~Boz~~ ^{Boz}, stated that it will be dredged next year to six meters close to the shore.
11. Sinop and Porsambe are natural harbors of good size with excellent shelter from the north and west winds prevalent during the winter. Sinop is somewhat better protected than Porsambe from east winds.
12. Nowhere in the area, except at Samsun, did we observe wharves for fishing vessels extending beyond the surge of the surf. Such wharves are an absolute necessity for loading and unloading fishing vessels if fish are to be taken in quantity.
13. Drydock facilities for steel vessels are non-existent and only small wooden vessels can be handled.
14. Ice-making plants and cold storage rooms are very important in the proper marketing of those species to be sold fresh, such as turbot and saurmullet. At present there are two small private ice plants in Samsun. One makes three tons of ice daily, the other is a seven-ton ice capacity and a 200-ton cold room but it is not operating at present. Three fine new ice and cold storage plants are under construction at Sinop, Samsun and Trabzon by the Toprak Makulleri Ofisi, (Fish Office of the Soils Product Office, Ministry of Economy & Commerce). They will be turned over to the Et ve Salik Kurumu (Government corporation charged with development of fishing industry) for operation.

FACTORS LIMITING FISH PRODUCTION

15. Fish production in the eastern Black Sea is limited by several factors:

a) Markets

The local consumption of fish is far below the potential production so that wherever fishing is good the fish must be transported elsewhere. Some fish are shipped to the interior by truck and some are shipped by rail from Samsun. Trucking is very slow and uncertain because of poor roads. Most of the fish not used locally is shipped by steamer to Istanbul. In some ports without ice facilities the fish are shipped in ice brought from the interior from the mountains.

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The actual selling of fish is somewhat disorganized. In many ports the bulk of the fish are sold by the individual fisherman directly to the local consumers. In others are middlemen who buy from the fisherman, and in a few towns fish are auctioned (Giresun and Trabzon). In most of the towns there are fishermen's cooperatives. Some of them sell the fishermen's catch.

b) Price

Price undoubtedly has some bearing on fish production. The high prices resulting from the small volume of the more desirable table species of fish (surmullet, turbot, etc) that are caught per unit of manpower, keeps fish in the luxury class. Greater volume would permit lower prices and thus stimulate local consumption.

c) Seaworthiness of Vessels

The catch is restricted by the size of the vessels employed. This vessel size is largely determined by the fact that in most places they are launched through the surf and landed in the same manner with their load of fish. The vessels are too small to use the heavy gear needed for catching large schools, and their carrying capacity is too small to hold enough fish to make it worthwhile to invest in better gear. The vessels are too small to fish in rough weather or to carry fish for long distances to sheltered ports.

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728.3	IK
756.14	IK
759.2	IK
4-5/728.73	IK

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Table 1
Average annual production of principal species in metric tons.

Home port	Anchovy	Norse Haddock	Herring	Oceanic Bonito	Turbot	Sur- mullet	Mullet	Belone	Mixed	Dolphin
Sinop vilayet	3 300	---	---	750	750	95	442	30	250	25
Samsun vilayet	795	121	---	175	328	200	112	---	325	---
Unye	---	300	15	---	225	300	---	---	---	---
Fatsa	225	---	---	---	24	---	---	---	---	30
Porsambo	4 500	300	30	---	60	75	75	---	138	500
Ordu	1 500	200	170	150	190	75	75	---	137	60
Giresun vilayet	4 375	3 375	---	750	1 000?	---	---	150	45	750
Trabzon vilayet	20 000	10 000	150	800	50	50	---	---	---	10 000
Rize	1 000?	---	---	---	150	150	100	---	---	---
Total	35,695	14,296	265	2,625	2,777	945	804	180	895	11,365

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Table 2

Numbers and types of vessels, fishing gear and fishermen

Port	Vessels Row- boats	Motor boats	Number of fish- ermen	Ring nets	Beach seines	Trammel and gill nets	Set lines	Hook and line	Traps	Blanket nets	Otter trawl
Sinop vilayet	80	29	350	17	10	60		300	4	3	
Samsun vilayet	20	7	250	5	51	20	30				1
Unye	15	4	25		6			15			
Fatza	32	6	125	3		15	12				
Perseembe	200	55	1000	20	30	7	7				
Ordu	71	4	500	8	48	200	10				
Giresun vilayet	270	110	1500	15	30	160	100				
Trabzon vilayet	1272	174	4840	36	30	150		1000			
Rize	150	30	630	2		100	5				
Cayeli		13	80	3				300			
Pazar	50	30	380								
Total	2160	462	9680	109	205	645	157	1615	4	3	1

Number of fishermen included dolphin hunter
One of the Fatza motor boats is an outboard motor boat.

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Table 3

Ice and cold storage facilities

Port	Ice plant capacity in tons of ice per hour	Cold storage rooms	Ownership
Sinop	10	Yes	Et ve Balık Kurumu
Samsun	3	No	Private
	7	Yes	Private
	25	Yes	Et ve Balık Kurumu
Trabzon	25	Yes	Et ve Balık Kurumu

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